WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing service system comprising:
which provides a predetermined image processing service
to an image processing apparatus having an image
information input/output function via a network.

2. An image processing service system according
to claim 1, wherein said image processing service is
provided from any of an image processing service owned
by a dedicated server connected to said network and an
image processing service provided to a local or remote
image processing apparatus connected to said network.

3. An image processing service system according
to claim 2, wherein a variety of image processing
services that can be provided to said image processing
apparatus via said network are utilized for image
processing to be selectively combined with each other
based on a request from said image processing
apparatus.

4. An image processing service system according
to claim 1, comprising at least one of functions for
applying compression/decompression processing and
encryption/decryption processing to information
communicated via said network.

5. An image processing service system according
to claim 1, causing said image processing apparatus to
select whether the image processing service that can be
provided to said image processing apparatus via said

network is registered in advance in said image

processing apparatus in order to ensure regular

utilization, or alternatively, is not registered in

order to ensure temporary utilization.

5   6. An image processing service system according

to claim 1, wherein, when the image processing service

that can be provided via said network is utilized to be

registered in advance in said image processing

apparatus, information concerning operation of the

10   registered image processing service is acquired in

advance to be stored in said image processing

apparatus.

        7. An image processing service system according

to claim 1, wherein charge billing for utilization of

15   the image processing service of said image processing

apparatus is carried out by a service for managing the

utilization/registration state of the image processing

service for said image processing apparatus and the

result of utilization of the image processing service.

20   8. An image processing service system according

to claim 1, wherein, even if version information added

to said image processing service is registered in said

image processing apparatus, and said image processing

service is updated, said image processing apparatus can

25   utilize the image processing service of the registered

version.

        9. An image processing service system according

to claim 1, wherein information concerning a method for utilizing said image processing service is exchanged between said image processing apparatus and image processing service provider, and then, said image

5   processing service is utilized by said image processing apparatus by using the specified utilization method.

10.   An image processing service system according to claim 1, wherein the latest advertisement information is displayed at a time when the information

10   is displayed and output by using a service for embedding information to be linked with advertisement information in image information.

11.   An image processing service system according to claim 1, wherein a value added image is provided by

15   using a service for embedding content information in image information.

12.   An image processing service system according to claim 1, wherein image information quality is managed by using a service for diagnosing a sample

20   image output from said image processing apparatus.

13.   An image processing service system according to claim 1, wherein a replacement time of consumables is managed by using a service for detecting an image processing service utilization history in said image

25   processing apparatus.

14.   An image processing apparatus comprising an image information input/output function, thereby making

it possible to selectively access a predetermined image
processing service via a network.

15. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 14, wherein a variety of image processing

5 services that can be accessed via said network can be
specified by combing the services.

16. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 14, comprising at least one of functions for
applying compression/decompression processing and

10 encryption/decryption processing to information
communicated via said network.

17. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 14, wherein the image processing service that
can be accessed via said network can be selected to

15 be registered in advance to ensure regular utilization
or not to be registered to ensure temporary
utilization.

18. An image processing apparatus according to
claim 14, wherein, when the image processing service

20 that can be accessed via said network is registered and
utilized, information concerning operation of the
registered image processing service is acquired in
advance, and is stored.

19. An image processing apparatus according to

25 claim 14, wherein, even if version information added to
said image processing service is registered, and said
image processing service is updated, the image

processing service of the registered version can be accessed.